

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1913 was held in its office in the Lemon Building, 1729 New York avenue, NW., Washington, D. C., on Friday, August 9, 1912. The following members were present:

Mr. French, the Chairman;

Mr. Olmsted;

Mr. Gilbert;

Mr. Moore;

Mr. Blashfield;

Mr. Anderson;

also Captain U. S. Grant 3rd, the Acting Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:10 A. M., and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the preceding meeting, held on June 21st, were presented and approved.
2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN: Upon motion duly made and seconded, Mr. Olmsted was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Commission to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Millet.
3. NEW DIE FOR LETTERHEADS: The Acting Secretary was directed to have a new die made for the letterheads of the Commission, which is to contain the names of the present members of the Commission, and, in addition, the official address of the Secretary in Washington.

4. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF JURY TO ACT IN GERMANTOWN MEMORIAL MATTER: Captain Grant informed the Commission that the Secretary of War and Mr. Hastings (as acting Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts) had agreed to the suggestion of Dr. C. J. Hexamer, President of the National German-American Alliance, that a jury of three artists be chosen, - one by the Commission of Fine Arts, another by the German Memorial Monument Commission, and these two to select a third, - to make an inspection of, and furnish an advisory opinion to the Secretary of War upon, the new designs to be submitted by Mr. Albert Jaegers and Mr. J. Otto Schweizer for the proposed German memorial at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Commission did not deem it advisable to designate a member of the Commission of Fine Arts to act on this jury. They unanimously decided to recommend that the jury include both an architect and a sculptor, and selected Mr. Frank Miles Day, architect, of Philadelphia, to represent the Commission. (See Exhibit A.)

A letter, with accompanying plan, from Horace Wells Sellers, Secretary of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, regarding the site of the proposed memorial, was also considered by the Commission.

5. FULL-SIZED PLASTER MODEL OF FIGURE OF VICTORY FOR BARRY MONUMENT: Mr. French reported that, at the request of the Barry Statue Commission, he had made an examination of the full-sized plaster model of the figure of Victory to be placed on the front of the Barry monument, and recommends its acceptance. The report of Mr. French was adopted as the report of the Commission and the model approved.

6. DESIGN FOR THE MEMORIAL TO THE NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN OF THE CONFEDERACY: Mr. French also reported that, at the request of the North Carolina Historical Commission that such members of the Commission of Fine Arts as reside in New York call at the studio of Mr. Augustus Lukeman in that city and examine and pass upon his design for a memorial to the North Carolina Women of the Confederacy, Mr. Blashfield and he had inspected the design and approve it as a whole, and believe that it will develope into an

interesting and impressive group of sculpture. The report of Mr. French was adopted and the design approved. (See Exhibit B.)

7. DESIGNS FOR THE MEDAL TO CAPTAIN ROSTRON: The Acting Secretary presented to the Commission a letter from the President, asking their consideration of, and recommendation on, various designs submitted for a medal to be given by Congress to Captain Rostron of the steamship Carpathia. After a careful inspection of the sixteen designs submitted, the Commission decided that none achieved the high standard of artistic excellence required in a medal to be presented by the United States and recommended the rejection of all, and the procuring of new designs from artists distinguished for their skill in medallion art. (See Exhibit C.)

8. FLORAL SUNDIAL AROUND WASHINGTON MONUMENT: The Commission next considered a letter, submitted by the Office in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds, from Mr. Thomas B. O'Hagan of Washington, with accompanying sketch, in which it was suggested that the grounds around the base of the Washington monument be planted so as to make of the latter a floral sundial. The Commission did not consider it advisable that this be done.

9. LARGE CLOCKS ON BUSINESS STREETS OF CITY: Captain Grant presented a letter from the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, requesting, for the guidance of the Commissioners in general, the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts upon the question of the desirability, from an architectural standpoint, of permitting large ~~large~~ clocks to be erected upon the sidewalks of the city. After an inspection later in the day of several clocks along F street, the Commission reported to the Board of Commissioners that, as a general principle, clocks, being obstructions on the sidewalks or in the vista along the street, are regarded as objectionable, but that there might be individual cases in which this objection could be waived. (See Exhibit D.)

and the design approved. (See Exhibit 2.)

7. DESIGN FOR THE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Acting Secretary presented to the Commission a letter from the President, asking their consideration of, and recommendation on, various designs submitted for a medal to be given to Congress to Captain Gordon of the Army of the Republic. After a careful inspection of the sixteen designs submitted, the Commission decided that none achieved the high standard of artistic excellence required in a medal to be presented by the United States and recommended the selection of all, and the presenting of new designs from artists distinguished for their skill in medallic art. (See Exhibit 3.)

8. PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL MONUMENT. The Commission next considered a letter, submitted by the Office in charge of Public Buildings, from Mr. Thomas H. O'Hagan of Washington, with accompanying plans, in which it was suggested that the grounds around the base of the Washington Monument be placed as a memorial to the father of the Nation. The Commission did not consider it advisable that this be done.

9. LANDS WITHIN OR OUTSIDE BOUNDARY OF CITY. Captain Grant presented a letter from the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, requesting for the guidance of the Commission in general, the opinion of the Commission of what lands upon the question of the establishment of a national monument, of containing large areas to be added upon the territory of the city. After an inspection later in the day of several places along the river, the Commission reported to the Board of Commissioners that, as a general principle, objects, being situated on the territory or in the city limits, are regarded as objectionable, but that there might be exceptional cases in which such objection could be waived. (See Exhibit 4.)

10. TREATMENT OF PORTIONS OF THE CENTRAL ISLAND OF THE UNION STATION PLAZA:

The Commission next considered a letter from the President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, submitting for its consideration the question of the character of treatment of the unimproved portions of the central island of the Union Station Plaza. After an inspection of the Plaza later in the day, the Commission requested Mr. Anderson to take up with the architects, Messrs. D. H. Burnham & Co., of Chicago, the question of the preparation of sketches showing studies of the treatment of this portion of the Plaza, these sketches to be considered at the next meeting of the Commission.

11. BUST OF CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER: The Acting Secretary then presented the request of the Joint Committee on the Library for advice as to the advisability of purchase by the Government of the bust of Chief Justice Fuller, executed by William Ordway Partridge, and particularly as to its artistic merit and as to its being a faithful likeness. After an inspection of the bust later in the day in the committee room of the Senate Committee on the Library, the Commission reported that the bust was considered artistically worthy of purchase and that it seemed to be acceptable as a likeness. (See Exhibit E.)

12. IMPROVEMENT OF THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY: Captain Grant presented a letter from Commander G. W. Logan, U. S. N., commanding the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, requesting the consideration of the Commission as to the outlining of a general plan on which further additions and improvements to the Naval Academy may be recommended and accomplished. The President has asked the Commission to help the naval authorities in any way it can in this matter. Mr. Olmsted stated that he had visited the Naval Academy on August 8th, and explained in detail landscape and topographical conditions existing there. After a general discussion of the matter, Mr. Olmsted was requested to prepare the reply to the

10. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Commission next considered a letter from the President of the Senate of

the Dominion of the District of Columbia, requesting for its consideration the

question of the character of the treatment of the negro population of the District

of the United States. After an inspection of the District of Columbia

the day, the Commission requested Mr. Anderson to take up with the President,

Messrs. D. H. Burdett & Co., of Chicago, the question of the propriety of

advising the President of the treatment of this portion of the District, these

advises to be considered at the next meeting of the Commission.

11. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Next the Joint Committee on the Library for notice of the availability of

papers by the Government of the West of India, and the papers of William

George Lawrence, and particularly as to the rights of the West of India

Library. After an inspection of the West of India Library in the West of India

the room of the Senate Committee on the Library, the Commission reported that the

West of India Library was not sufficiently worthy of notice and that it should be

noted as a library. (See Exhibit E.)

12. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

presented a letter from Mr. W. W. Logan, of the United States

Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, requesting the consideration of the Commission

as to the possibility of a general plan in which further education and improvement

to the Naval Academy may be recommended and accomplished. The President has asked

the Commission to help the Naval Academy in its new plan in this matter. Mr.

Anderson stated that he had visited the Naval Academy in August 1891, and explained

that the Naval Academy was not sufficiently well equipped and that a general

question of the matter, Mr. Anderson was prepared to prepare the report to the

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Commandant of the Naval Academy. (See Exhibit F.)

13. CONFERENCE WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
The Commission thereupon left the office to meet the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives at 10:30 o'clock, at its request, for a conference upon the features of Senate Bill 745 and Senate Joint Resolution 8 providing for the erection of statues to Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, respectively. At this conference a general discussion of the place, form and cost of adequate memorials to these two men ensued, and Mr. French informed the Committee that the Commission had at one time approved, as the site for a statue to Alexander Hamilton, the location upon the platform on the south front and on the north and south axis of the Treasury building. The Committee, at this conference, adopted a resolution referring Senate Bill 745 and Senate Joint Resolution 8 to the Commission of Fine Arts with the request for an opinion of the Commission with regard to the cost, site, and form of these memorials, together with such other suggestions as the Commission may care to make.

The Chairman later appointed Mr. Olmsted, Mr. Gilbert, and Mr. Moore a committee to consider and prepare the report to the Committee in response to the above resolution.

The Commission then went to the room of the Senate Committee on the Library and there inspected the bust of former Chief Justice Fuller, by William Ordway Partridge, and informally discussed with various members of the Senate and House Committees on the Library the artistic merits of three oil portraits of the late Chief Justice. The Commission then lunched at the Capitol, and, after a careful inspection of the Union Station Plaza, returned to its office by way of F street in order to examine the large clocks along that street.

15. CONFERENCE WITH THE ARCHITECT FOR THE MAINE MEMORIAL: Upon returning to the office, the Commission, at 2 o'clock, met Mr. Nathan Wyeth of Washington, architect of the proposed Maine Memorial to be located in Arlington Cemetery, who wished to consult

with the Commission upon various sketches of preliminary designs prepared by him for the memorial. After a discussion of these designs with Mr. Wyeth, the Commission suggested that additional studies be prepared by him. Mr. Wyeth agreed to have these ready by the time of the next meeting of the Commission.

16. **MEMORIAL TO JOHN WESLEY POWELL:** Captain Grant then read a letter which had just been received from the Secretary of the Interior, requesting the views of the Commission upon the suitability of a design submitted for a memorial to John Wesley Powell which is to be erected on the brink of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and also read the accompanying copies of letters regarding the memorial from W. H. Holmes, Chairman of the committee on the memorial, and of the architect, Mr. J. R. Marshall of Washington. At the request of the Commission Mr. Marshall appeared and discussed with the members the features of the design submitted. The Commission felt that the design is so unusual that it was doubted to be the best for the purpose, and recommended to the Secretary of the Interior that, before passing upon it finally, the architect be requested to prepare other designs, giving different treatments of the subject. (See Exhibit G.)

17. **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1912:** The Commission also considered its proposed report for the past fiscal year. It was considered desirable to publish, in the form of an appendix, the most important of the recommendations and opinions of the Commission during the past two years, together with such reproductions as may be found suitable, the selection of these to be left to Mr. Moore. It was thought advisable, however, to furnish galley-proofs of the various letters to be published to the officials to whom they are addressed with an accompanying inquiry to ascertain whether there is any objection to the publication of these letters.

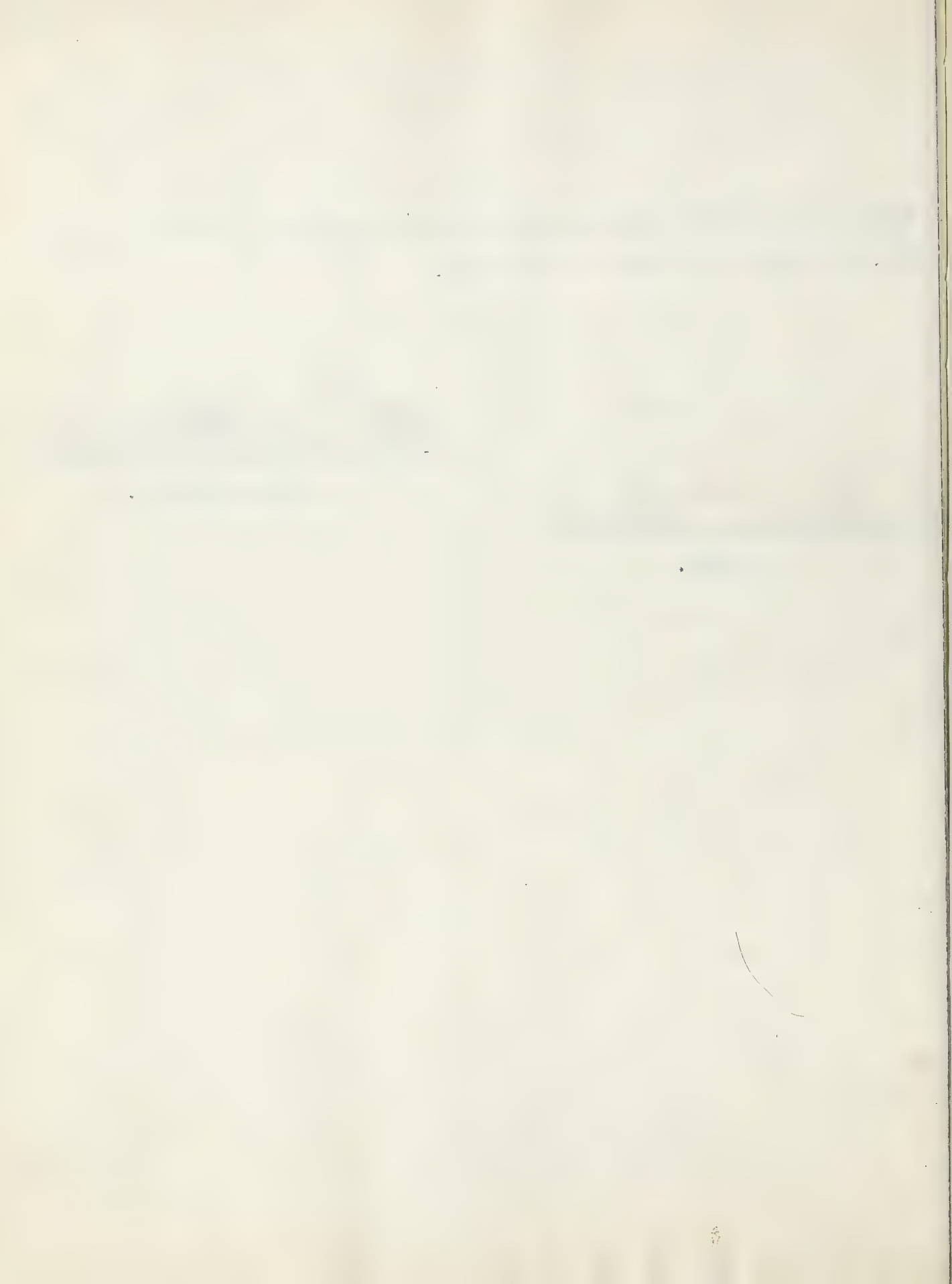
There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned
3:45 P. M., subject to the call of the Chairman.



Acting Secretary.

Approved: Daniel C. French

Chairman.



August 21, 1912.

Dr. C. J. Hexamer,
President, National German-American Alliance,
419 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:-

At the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held Friday, August 9, 1912, consideration was given to the question of the appointment by the Commission of an expert member of the jury of three artists who are to make an inspection and furnish an advisory opinion to the Secretary of War upon the designs to be submitted by Mr. Albert Jaegers and Mr. Otto Schweizer for the proposed German Memorial to be erected at Germantown, Pennsylvania. In the opinion of the Commission it is desirable that the jury should include both a sculptor and an architect. If you agree with the Commission in this, and if it would agreeable to you to appoint a sculptor, the Commission will appoint Mr. Frank Miles Day, architect, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT 3rd,

Captain, Corps of
Engineers, U. S. A., Acting
Secretary.

1729 New York avenue,
Washington, D. C.
August 21, 1912.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

Sir:-

With the return of the attached papers, belonging to the files of the War Department, regarding the appointment of a jury of three artists who are to make an inspection and furnish an advisory opinion to the Secretary of War upon the designs to be submitted for the proposed German memorial to be erected at Germantown, Pennsylvania, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a letter addressed to Dr. C. J. Hexamer, of Philadelphia, informing him of the selection of Mr. Frank Miles Day, architect, of Philadelphia, by the Commission of Fine Arts as a member of this jury.

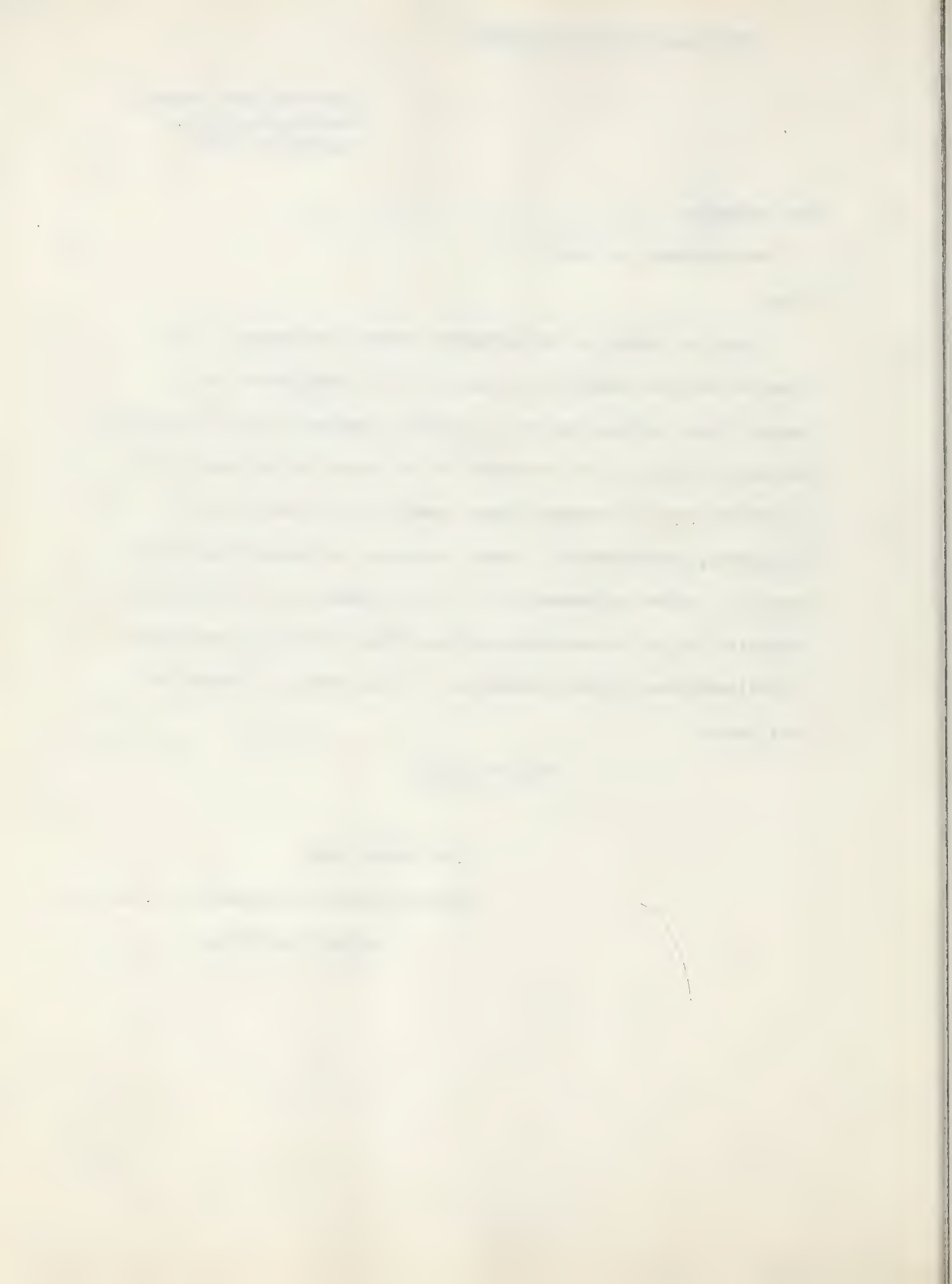
Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT 3rd

Captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.,

Acting Secretary.

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August 10, 1912.

R. D. W. Connor, Esq.,
Secretary, The North
Carolina Historical Commission,
Raleigh, North Carolina.

Dear Sir:-

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of July twenty-seventh that such members of the Commission of Fine Arts as reside in New York should call at the studio of Mr. Augustus Lukeman and examine and pass upon his design for a memorial to the North Carolina Women of the Confederacy, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Daniel C. French and Mr. Edwin H. Blashfield of the Commission have inspected the design and report that they approve it ^{that} as a whole, and believe it will develop into an interesting and impressive group of sculpture.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT 3rd,
Captain, Corps of Engineers, USA.,
Acting Secretary.

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August 13, 1912.

The President,

The White House.

Mr. President:-

The Commission of Fine Arts regret to report that they find none of the designs submitted in competition for the proposed medal to Captain Rostron achieves the high standard of artistic excellence required in a medal which is an expression of the honor paid to a distinguished man by the Nation.

The Commission recommend the rejection of all of these designs and that new designs be secured from artists distinguished for their skill in this most difficult department of the fine arts. The Commission will furnish names of such artists, if desired.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully.

U. S. GRANT 3rd,
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.,
Acting Secretary.

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THE [illegible] OF [illegible]

BY [illegible]

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August 10, 1912.

Hon. Cuno H. Rudolph,
President, Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting held yesterday, gave consideration to the question of the desirability, from an architectural standpoint, of permitting large clocks to be placed upon the sidewalks of the city. I am directed by the Commission to state that, as a general principle, clocks, being obstructions on the sidewalks or in the vista along the street, are regarded as objectionable by the Commission. There might be individual cases, however, in which this objection can be waived.

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT 3rd,
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A.,
Acting Secretary.

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August 13, 1912.

Hon. George Peabody Wetmore
Chairman, The Joint Committee
on the Library,
The United States Senate.

Sir:-

In compliance with your request the Commission of Fine Arts have examined the bust of Chief Justice Fuller, by William Ordway Partridge, and beg to report that they consider the bust artistically worthy of purchase by the Government, and, so far as a comparison of the photographs of Chief Justice Fuller with the bust could determine, it seems to be acceptable as a likeness.

In case it is decided to place the bust in the room of the Supreme Court, the Commission advise that the plinth or ~~the~~ base of the bust shall be changed to harmonize with the busts already installed and that the sculptor's attention be drawn, in rendering the bust in marble, to the importance of recalling the extreme delicacy and refinement that characterize the architectural detail of the room.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT 3rd,
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.,
Acting Secretary.

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August 30, 1912.

Commander G. W. Logan, U. S. N.,
Commanding U. S. Naval Academy,
Annapolis, Maryland.

Sir:-

Your letter of August 5th, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts, was considered by the full Commission at their meeting of August 9th after an informal examination of the premises by one of the members of the Commission.

In the opinion of the Commission any device such as you suggest, which would enable the constant succession of officers in charge of the buildings and grounds of the Naval Academy to avoid discontinuity of purpose in their methods of maintaining and gradually improving the grounds and placing such new buildings as may from time to time be added, would be of the greatest value not only as regards the beauty and convenience of the place as a whole but also as regards economy in the expenditure of appropriations.

It is peculiarly true in regard to expenditures for the maintenance of such grounds and for minor improvements therein from year to year that the full results are not to be obtained until after the lapse of many years. This is notably the case where the planting and growth of trees or other vegetation is involved, but it is no less true in many other cases. Not only is the full effect of such expenditures

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

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The first settlement of the city of Boston was made by a small party of Englishmen, who, in the year 1630, sailed from England, and landed at the mouth of the Charles River. They were accompanied by a large number of women and children, and were soon joined by a still larger number of settlers. The city grew rapidly, and by the year 1690, it had become one of the most important cities in the colony. In 1703, the city was incorporated as a city, and in 1780, it was made the capital of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The city has since that time continued to grow, and is now one of the largest and most important cities in the United States.

slow in arriving but often the first visible results do not even suggest the nature of the final result to which they are intended to contribute. An isolated piece of grading done in expectation of some other change which is not yet practicable may seem meaningless and even highly objectionable to one who does not understand the whole purpose behind it. As a rule a high degree of beauty and convenience can be developed in the grounds of a great institution only by the cumulative effect of long continued intelligent annual maintenance work and innumerable minor improvements made from year to year as circumstances permit, often in a fragmentary way; and where the direction of such work frequently changes hands there is naturally a great deal of waste through repeatedly starting on lines of development which are abandoned in favor of other ideas before they have really progressed far enough to show their real advantages. A tolerable plan consistently followed will give far better results for less money than a rapid succession of contradictory plans even though every one of the latter be a work of genius.

The Commission venture thus to enlarge upon the advantages of what you have yourself proposed, in order to emphasize their appreciation of its importance and their desire to be of assistance in the matter. It is however quite impossible for the Commission to undertake the preparation of any such general plan with its careful and explicit definition of the essential things to be sought in shaping the details of maintenance and gradual improvement. To do so adequately involves a laborious and patient study, in consultation with the officials of the Academy, of a great number of practical details with a view to overcoming inconveniences which experience has developed and providing for needs which now exist or can reasonably be forecast, while at the same time securing harmonious and agreeable esthetic effects throughout the grounds.

If the officers of the Naval Academy, with competent technical assistance,

undertake the preparation of such a plan, the Commission of Fine Arts will be glad to aid by advice and suggestive criticism at any stage of the work. After the completion of such a plan the Commission would be in a position to act in a measure as its custodian and interpreter, assisting the successive officers in charge of the Academy to understand the motives of design which controlled their predecessors in developing the grounds, and advising and helping them to make the changes that time will inevitably require in any general plan in such a manner as not to sacrifice needlessly the attainment of objects for which their predecessors may have taken the preliminary steps.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT 3rd,

Captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Acting Secretary.

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helping them to make the changes that time will inevitably require in any
general plan in such a manner as not to swerve needlessly the attainment
of objects for which their predecessors may have taken the preliminary steps.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT, Secy.

Captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.

Acting Secretary.

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August 22, 1912.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

In compliance with the request in your letter of August 9th, the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on that day, examined the design prepared by Mr. J. R. Marshall for a memorial to John Wesley Powell to be erected on the brink of the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

While the Commission were unanimous in approving certain features of the design, they were not convinced that the design presented the best solution of the problem, and, before passing upon it finally, they suggest that Mr. Marshall submit one or more other designs, embodying, if he sees fit, some of the suggestions made informally by members of the Commission.

The Commission recognize the great difficulties encountered in making a design which will fit in with the very unusual surroundings of the site selected for the memorial.

Respectfully,

DANIEL C. FRENCH,

Chairman.

ABC

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August 22, 1912.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

In compliance with the request in your letter of August 21st, the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on that day, examined the design prepared by Mr. J. E. Marshall for a memorial to John Wesley Powell to be erected on the brink of the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

While the Commission were assembled in reviewing certain features of the design, they were not surprised that the design presented the best solution of the problem, and, before passing upon it finally, they suggest that Mr. Marshall submit one or more other designs, suggesting, if he sees fit, some of the suggestions made informally by members of the Commission. The Commission recognize the great difficulties encountered in making a design which will fit in with the very unusual surroundings of the site selected for the memorial.

Respectfully,

CHARLES C. DEXTER,

Chairman.

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